

news

For Immediate Release

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TESOL Revises Position on Teaching EFL/EAL to Young Learners

Alexandria, Virginia (November 2009) – At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), approved a revision to the association’s position statement regarding the teaching of English as foreign or additional language (EFL/EAL) to young learners. Recognizing that policy changes mandating the earlier introduction of English in foreign language settings are increasingly being implemented worldwide, the position statement outlines critical factors that impact the teaching of EFL/EAL to young learners.

Although research has suggested that age may have an effect as to the way a language is learned, age alone does not determine success in learning a foreign language. There is no single best way to implement an effective EFL/EAL program for young learners. Sociocultural contexts, government policies, and historical language practices will all impact the success or failure of a language instructional program. More importantly, policy makers need to look at program planning and content, teacher quality, and the level of programmatic and institutional support, and be able to define and understand these factors within local educational and cultural context.

TESOL’s full *Position Statement on Teaching English as a Foreign or Additional Language to Young Learners* is available at www.tesol.org.

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Incorporated in 1966, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), is a global association for English language teaching professionals headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, USA. TESOL encompasses a network of nearly 60,000 educators worldwide, consisting of more than 12,000 individual members and an additional 45,000 educators within the 100 plus TESOL affiliate associations. Representing a multifaceted academic discipline and profession, TESOL offers members serial publications, books, and electronic resources on current issues, ideas, and opportunities in the field of English language teaching. TESOL also conducts a variety of workshops and symposia, including an annual convention, regarded as the foremost professional development opportunity for English language educators worldwide. TESOL’s mission is to develop and maintain professional expertise in English language teaching for speakers of other languages worldwide.